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Mr. Asfand M. Sheikh
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Regarding U.S. Patent Application No. 10/679,791

Dear Mr. Sheikh,

Thank you for being so kind and patient with me. As per your correspondence concerning my application, please replace my original thirty claims with the attached seventeen claims. I abandon Claims 19 through 30 because they belong to a different type of patent, and Claims 1 through 18 because of the prior art you cited.

This invention is for an impartial electronic matchmaking method that introduces buyers to sellers of products and services that can be identified by digital representations of machine-readable identification tags or symbols, where the nucleus of the system is a software application that resides on a server attached to the Internet, referred to as the Shopper Assistant Portal, working in conjunction with a software application that can be compiled to run on any terminal-device that is capable of accessing the Internet directly or indirectly, with the users of the terminal-devices being referred to as Shoppers, and software that resides on servers that are also connected to the Internet belonging to individual Merchants of products and/or services, where the Shoppers choose the geographical area they want to shop in and the Merchants choose the geographical area they want to cater-to.

I included all methods of collecting machine-readable data as one and refer to them as machine-readable identification "MRID" collectively. Inasmuch as my original application for USP# 4,654,482 that utilized a "bar-code", was rejected by the art shown in the Johnson (USP# 4,107,467) that utilized a "punch card" as a machine-readable identification method, therefore; it can be assumed that any digital representations of machine-readable identification tags or symbols are considered common art by the USPTO.

Please note; the language relating to products and services can be found in section [0043].

Please note; the language relating to the process of placing an order can be found in the Abstract (*When a shopper selects a merchant, a link is executed to the merchant's e-commerce server where the shopper could proceed with the order through the order receiving system that the merchant has incorporated into their e-commerce system. A shopper may purchase all, one, or selected products. Purchases and return transactions are preferably conducted between the shopper and the individual merchant.*), in sections [0008], [0012], [0039], and [0040], and in Figure 2, reference number 76.

Please note; the language relating to the all-important quantity field is referenced in sections [0030], [0031], [0039], and [0041], and in Figure 2, reference number 74.

The accompanying CD contains my new claims in both: Microsoft Word 2000, and Rich-Text formats.

I pray that this application gets approved, because not only is it useful, but also the world needs this system.

Respectfully,

Lawrence J. DeAngelis

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